

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-10 ( ISO ) W  
----- 032082

R 071526Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2400

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REFS: (A) LISBON 1882 (B) LISBON 1916

1. FAR LEFT PARTIES REJECT PLATFORM OF UNDERSTANDING:  
THE FOUR FAR LEFT PARTIES COMPETING IN THE ELECTIONS (PUP,  
FEC-ML, UDP, AND LCI) HAVE REFUSED TO SIGN THE AFM PLATFORM OF  
UNDERSTANDING (REFTELS) REGARDING THE FUTURE CONSTITUTION OF  
THE COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO THE LISBON PRESS, THREE OF  
THESE FOUR PARTIES REJECTED THE PACT IN THEIR APRIL 4 RESPONSES  
TO THE AFM PROPOSED PLATFORM. THE FOURTH PARTY, FEC-ML, PREVIOUS-  
LY REFUSED TO EVEN DISCUSS THE PACT WITH AFM REPRESENTATIVES. IN  
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REFUSING TO ADHERE TO THE PACT, THE UDP, CRITICIZING THE

SHORT NOTICE THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL GAVE THE PARTIES TO RESPOND, SAID THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE CAN ONLY BE DEFENDED IN A POPULAR DEMOCRACY THROUGH A DICTATORSHIP OF THE WORKING CLASS OVER THE BOURGEOIS PARTIES. UDP CITED FACT THAT THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL PROPOSALS DO NOT INCLUDE THIS ESSENTIAL POINT AS REASON WHY UDP REFUSED TO AGREE TO PACT. UDP ALSO REJECTS AFM ROLE AS ARBITER AMONG PARTIES, CLAIMING THAT COUNTRY WITNESSING CLASS STRUGGLE, NOT A FOOTBALL MATCH, AND NO ARBITERS ARE POSSIBLE. THE PUP REJECTION OF THE PACT ALSO BASED ON ARGUMENT THAT PACT ALLOWS FOR "CLASS COLLABORATION," WHICH IT WILL NOT ACCEPT. THE LCI ALSO REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE COMPROMISE WITH REACTIONARY PARTIES WHICH THE PACT WOULD ENTAIL.

2. LOCAL ELECTION BOARDS TO FORM:

ACCORDING TO ELECTORAL LAW, APRIL 8 IS THE DEADLINE FOR THE LEGALIZED PARTIES TO MAKE KNOWN TO THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS THEIR CANDIDATES FOR THE 14,000 LOCAL ELECTION BOARDS WHICH WILL OVERSEE THE BALLOTING AND TALLYING OF VOTES APRIL 25. EACH OF THE 12 PARTIES WHICH ARE RUNNING CANDIDATES IN THE ELECTIONS IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO THE LOCAL MAYOR A LIST OF FIVE REGISTERED VOTERS FROM EACH VOTING LOCALE. A DRAWING WILL THEN TAKE PLACE TO SELECT THE FIVE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD (MESA). IF AN INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF NAMES ARE PROPOSED, THE MAYOR MAY HIMSELF SELECT THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD. (COMMENT: ACCORDING TO COMMANDER ALMEIDA E COSTA, CHIEF OF THE ELECTORAL DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, MOST PARTIES ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY IN SUBMITTING THE REQUIRED FIVE NAMES PER VOTING LOCALE. THESE PROBLEMS REFLECT THE INSUFFICIENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF MOST PARTIES--WITH PERHAPS THE EXCEPTION OF THE PCP--AND ALSO THE FACT THAT ONLY A FEW PARTIES ARE ESTABLISHED NATIONALLY.)

3. COMMUNISTS MAKE APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC SUPPORT:

THE PCP PUBLISHED A COMMUNIQUE URGING CATHOLICS WHO IN THE PAST REFRAINED FROM JOINING THE PCP BECAUSE OF THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS TO SUPPORT THE PARTY. CATHOLICS WHO IDENTIFY WITH THE PCP SOLUTIONS TO NATIONAL PROBLEMS, AND WHO ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE PCP POLITICAL LINE AND DISCIPLINE ARE WELCOME "WITHOUT RESERVE" INTO THE PCP. THE COMMUNIQUE NOTED THAT SOME OF THE PCP CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES ARE CATHOLICS. THE PCP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLAIMED THAT IT SUPPORTS FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND DEFENDS GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND THE PORTUGUESE STATE. THE PARTY HOWEVER OPPOSES THE REACTIONARY ANTI-COMMUNIST STANCE OF CERTAIN HIGH CLERGY WHO IT ALLEGES USE THEIR POSITION TO POLITICK AGAINST THE PCP.  
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